

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

SUB-GRANT FOR SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP)

Request for Applications

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this solicitation is to select one provider to award sub-granting funds from the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in the amount of \$112,567.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) awards grants to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods at Farmers' markets and roadside stands. The majority of the grant funds must be used to support the costs of foods that are provided under the SFMNP; state sub-grantee may use up to 10% of their grants to support administrative costs for the program.

III. PURPOSE

The purposes of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program are to:

1. Provide resources in the form of fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey from Farmers' markets and roadside stands to low-income seniors (60+.)
2. Increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding or aiding in the expansion of domestic Farmers' markets and roadside stands.
3. Develop or aid in the development of new and additional Farmers' markets and roadside stands.

IV. Eligibility

Clients: Low income seniors, generally defined as individuals who are at least 60 years old and who have household incomes of not more than 185% of the federal poverty level income guidelines (published each year by the Department of Health and Human Services), are the targeted recipients of SFMNP benefits. Some State agencies accept proof of participation or enrollment in another means-tested program, such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), for SFMNP eligibility. A sworn affidavit may also be accepted.

Vendors: Local farmers or Farmers' markets that operate in the counties served by the State SFMNP or in the counties bordering the service area.

Products: Only locally grown, fresh, unprepared fruits, vegetables, and honey are eligible to be purchased by SFMNP coupons. No produce grown out of the State of Arkansas is eligible unless the produce is from a county bordering the service area. Ineligible products include: dried fruits or vegetables (such as prunes, raisins, dried chili peppers), potted fruit or vegetable plants, potted or dried herbs, wild rice, nuts of any kind (even raw), maple syrup, cider, and molasses.

V. Operation

DAAS: The State of Arkansas DHS/DAAS will receive the grant award from the FNS/USDA. DAAS will sub-grant to an implementing agency that will oversee the day-to-day operation of the SFMNP. DAAS will prepare all reports due to the USDA. DAAS will remit funds to the implementing agency

upon receipt of valid invoices. DAAS may conduct assessments of the implementing agency during the sub-grant period.

Implementing Agency: The implementing agency will verify the eligibility of clients and enroll clients and vendors (farmers, roadside stands, and Farmers' markets) in the program. The agency will disburse SFMNP sequentially numbered coupons (not to exceed \$50 per year per household) to eligible clients. The agency will maintain a waiting list of clients if necessary.

The implementing agency will educate the vendors on the rules, regulations and procedures of the SFMNP and provides them with identifying stamps and required documents for reimbursement. The agency is responsible for assessing both the program and financial fidelity of the local SFMNP.

The implementing agency will create a system to reimburse vendors for viable coupons collected. The agency will provide DAAS with expense reports, invoices, and program data report.

These funds will be granted to successful applicants and requires no matching share,

VI. Schedule of Events

Request for applications advertised	February 28, 2011
Request for applications closing date	March 11, 2011
Notification of selection of grants applicants	March 18, 2011
Grant award effective	April 11, 2011

***Applications must be received by DAAS by no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 11, 2011.**

Applications can be submitted electronically to georgia.mcnabb@arkansas.gov or mailed to:

Georgia McNabb, Budget Analyst
Division of Aging and Adult Services
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S530
Little Rock AR 72203-1437

VII. Criteria:

Priority will be placed on the applicant with experience administering programs serving the elderly, low-income and/or Farmers' markets.

VIII. Project duration

The funding is only available from April 11, 2011 through September 30, 2011. Grant funds are available for program cost as outlined in the application to the selected proposal that best meets the terms of the program design.

APPLICATION FOR SUB-GRANT FUNDING

SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP)

Applicant Organization:

Address (per AASIS vendor file):

Federal Tax ID #

Name of primary point of contact:

Date:

Brief program description:

Counties of operations:

Experience with similar programs:

Anticipated benefits to be derived:

Funding amount requested:

Proposed budget:

CERTIFICATION: By signature below, applicant signifies agreement that these state general improvement funds are for expenditures within the state of Arkansas in support of the DHS mission to provide an effective statewide network of social services for the benefit of Arkansas residents.

Signature of Applicant

Title

Date